

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 BIB-01 SAM-01 PM-04 /036 W

----- 088717

R 221409Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3782

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 17276

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, WB, UR

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF VISIT OF SOVIET MAYORS

REFS: (A) USBERLIN 2105; (B) BREMEN 524 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FRG BONN GROUP REP HAS BRIEFED ALLIES ON THE NEGOTIATING HISTORY OF THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE SOVIET MAYORS' VISIT. HE STRESSED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD EXPLICITLY AGREED TO INCLUDE WEST BERLIN IN THE ITINERARY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OCTOBER 17 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (LUECKING) BRIEFED THE ALLIES ON THE BACKGROUND OF THE MAYORS' VISIT AND ITS BEING BROKEN OFF. LUECKING STRESSED THAT WHILE THE SOVIETS HAD NOT OFFERED AN OFFICIAL REASON FOR THE CANCELLATION, THERE WAS NO DOUBT THE VISIT WAS TERMINATED IN ORDER TO AVOID STOPPING IN BERLIN. THE PRIVATE VISIT HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF LONG NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE DEUTSCHER STAEDTETAG UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SPD MAYOR KOSCHNICK AND SOVIET DEPUTY FONMIN ZEMSKOV (PARENTHETICALLY, LUECKING ADDED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT MEYER-LANDRUT OF THE FRG FONOFF HAD BEEN

WORKING ON THE PROJECT FOR TWO YEARS).

2. LUECKING STATED THAT THE KOSCHNICK -ZEMSKOV AGREEMENT HAD FIVE PARTS:

- A. EXPLICIT AGREEMENT TO A STOP IN BERLIN;
- B. ISSUANCE OF INVITATIONS BY THE DEUTSCHER STAEDTETAG AND BY THE SENAT;
- C. THE SOVIET MAYORS WOULD VISIT BERLIN IN CONNECTION ("IM ANSCHLUSS") WITH THEIR VISIT TO THE FRG;
- D. THE FRG AGREED THAT THE BERLIN STOP WOULD NOT BE THE SUBJECT OF AN FRG PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN;
- E. THERE WOULD BE NO OVERALL SCHEDULE PREPARED BUT EACH CITY WOULD PRESENT ITS OWN PROGRAM.

3. LUECKING EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG HAD STRICTLY ADHERED TO THE AGREEMENT, AND THERE HAD BEEN FRG HOPES THAT IT COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR SIMILAR VISITS IN THE FUTURE.

4. LUECKING ALSO STRESSED THAT AT NO TIME DURING THE VISIT HAD THE SOVIETS PROTESTED OR COMPLAINED. MOREOVER, UPON ARRIVAL IN COLOGNE ON OCTOBER 6, A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STAEDTETAG WAS HELD INVOLVING ALL THE SOVIET PARTICIPANTS AND ALL THE MAYORS OF THE CITIES THEY WOULD VISIT. BECAUSE OF GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ'S ILLNESS, BERLIN MAYOR OXFORD ATTENDED IN HIS STEAD. THE SOVIETS WERE INFORMED OF THIS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. AT A RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BONN THAT EVENING, THE SOVIETS CONFIRMED THAT THE VISIT WAS ON THE TRACKS AND SAID THEY HAD NO PROBLEMS.

5. COMMENT: SOVIET CANCELLATION HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT IN FOREIGN OFFICE. IDEA OF VISIT GOES BACK SEVERAL YEARS, AND FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS BELIEVED THEY HAD REACHED A MINI-BREAKTHROUGH WHEN THE SOVIETS AGREED. THE GERMANS WERE PARTICULARLY HOPEFUL THAT THE TERMS ARRANGED FOR THE VISIT COULD SERVE AS MODEL FOR MORE VISITS FROM THE USSR IN THE FUTURE. THE SOVIETS SURELY KNEW THE KIND

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OF REACTION WHICH THE CANCELLATION WOULD BRING. IT IS CAUSING NEW SPECULATION ABOUT SOME DIFFICULT TIMES AHEAD.

HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, PRESS COMMENTS, MAYOR, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN17276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750367-0769
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751030/aaaabamr.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USBERLIN 2105, 75 BREMEN 524
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANCELLATION OF VISIT OF SOVIET MAYORS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, WB, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006